

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2006 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Santome.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Galvin, Lee, Rische, Santome, Tsao, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: Commissioner Ulrich.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi, and
Torrance Police Department Sergeant Carreras.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Ulrich for the August 7, 2006 Traffic Commission meeting. Chairperson Lewis seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. **AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich).

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 5, 2006**

At Commissioner Rische's request, approval of minutes was postponed to the October 2, 2006 Commission meeting.

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

6a. **IMPLEMENTATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (LACDPW) TIER II SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF A CLOSE CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SYSTEM, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SUPPORT COMMUNICATION NETWORK FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM UPGRADE (TCS) AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Project Manager Sedadi introduced Senior Civil Engineer Jane White, P.E. from the Traffic and Lighting Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and Vice President Marc Porter from the Western Division, ITS/Engineering, Iteris. With the aid of a power point presentation and material of record, she provided background information about the implementation of South Bay Intelligent Transportation Systems

(ITS) with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). She noted that on November 7, 2005 the Traffic Commission reviewed Design and Implementation of the Signal Upgrade, Local Traffic Control Center, and the ITS and briefly described the three tiers to accomplish this implementation. She reported that the Preliminary Design Report – Torrance TCS & CCTV Communication Analysis Project was included in attachment B. She noted that the table on page 15 of the report summarizes the proposed recommendations into two categories based on their funding sources—Los Angeles County-funded projects and Torrance-funded projects. She presented recommendations proposed as part of the Signal Synchronization Project for the City of Torrance, noting that upgrade of Anza Avenue was not identified as part of the South Bay Signal Synchronization Projects and would be funded through the City's Capital Improvement Projects. She briefly discussed funding opportunities for the recommended Torrance-funded projects.

She presented the tentative timeline in Table 1 for each task, noting that in September 2006 staff would ask City Council to review and approve the required tasks for implementation of Tier II and Tier III of the ITS. She stated that construction was tentatively scheduled for June to September 2007. She requested that the Commission concur with staff recommendation to proceed with the implementation of the Tier II Signal Synchronization Project that includes the installation of a Close Circuit Television (CCTV) System, and Communication gap closures for the Traffic Control System Upgrade (TCS) at various locations.

In response to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Project Manager Sedadi explained that gap closures are hard wire or wireless interconnections between signals so they can communicate with each other.

Transportation Manager Semaan discussed placement of CCTV cameras, noting that they had the capability of monitoring in real time, and would be used strictly for traffic flow, incident management, and signal coordination, not for detection purposes.

Commissioner Santome expressed concern about privacy issues into private property and inquired about other municipalities that have recently implemented the program.

Senior Civil Engineer White advised that the cameras could be preset to have black out zones. She stated that there are not yet other municipalities that have implemented the program through Los Angeles County, but that there are existing Traffic Management Centers in cities that include Pasadena, Inglewood, and Long Beach.

Responding to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the system would have no bearing on the City's opticom system for emergency vehicles.

In response to Commissioner Lee's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that when the system comes on-line, they will have the capability to remotely make changes in signal timing.

Responding to Commissioner Galvin's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that monitoring at this stage would be conducted on an as-needed basis and not a 24-hour operation.

Senior Civil Engineer White added that the system has an alarm monitoring and diagnostic feature in the event that a signal malfunctions.

Commissioner Rische initiated a brief discussion regarding signal synchronization with Cal Trans.

In response to Commissioner Rische's inquiry, Senior Civil Engineer White explained that Anza Avenue was not included in the Los Angeles County funding projects because it does not go through multiple jurisdictions.

Commissioner Tsao suggested that testimony and feedback from another City that has used this system would be helpful to the Commission.

At Commissioner Lee's request, Senior Civil Engineer White explained the technical analysis that was used to determine placement of CCTV cameras.

Responding to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that Operations staff would be trained in system changes and improvements.

Commissioner Santome expressed concern about undiscussed dollars and consequences, and that he has not seen where the system fails and how to fix it.

Transportation Manager Semaan noted the large traffic volumes in the City, and stated it was looking for improvement capability technology without having to physically widen streets. He discussed dollar value that traffic delays impact the City, noting that there was grant funding for the majority of the project.

Project Manager Sedadi briefly discussed operation and maintenance costs.

Transportation Manager Semaan assured Chairperson Lewis that the City would have 100% control over signal synchronization during special events.

In response to Commissioner Lee's inquiry, Senior Civil Engineer White stated that there was existing, secure grant funding from MTA to make improvements in the South Bay area, and that they have worked with the City to define the specifics of fund allocation. She noted that Los Angeles County took the lead in putting forth the application to MTA for this funding and discussed the information exchange network capability with neighboring cities.

Robert Feldman, Cathann Street, stated that he needed to see a cost/benefit analysis summary to better understand what the system can provide that cannot be done now. He noted that he would like to know how much it is going to cost to maintain the system and what tangible efficiencies and savings the City would benefit from.

Transportation Manager Semaan discussed the system in a global rather than local sense with the objective of regional improvements in coordination of signal operations and circulation of traffic.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to concur with staff recommendation to proceed with the implementation of the Tier II Signal Synchronization Project in the City and to recommend that staff proceed to City Council for their review and approval. Commissioner Galvin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich).

7. **ORALS**

7A. Transportation Manager Semaan informed the Commission that the oversized vehicles item would be considered by City Council on August 22, 2006. He stated that staff was making revisions to the proposed ordinance to reflect Council's direction regarding the grandfathering clause and permit fee structure.

Commissioner Galvin commented that she hoped the permit fee would be kept to a minimum, noting that RV owners would be incurring huge storage fees.

7B. Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the Lifestyle wing of Del Amo Mall was scheduled to open on September 14, 2006.

7C. Commissioner Santome thanked staff for their efforts on the ITS project and discussed his responsibility to consider costs when making recommendations. He welcomed Torrance Police Department Sergeant Carreras to the meeting.

7D. Commissioner Tsao stated that it would be beneficial to hear feedback from other cities that use the ITS system.

7E. Responding to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan provided an update on Skypark Drive and Hawthorne Boulevard as well as Western Avenue and 235th Street.

7F. Elizabeth Brown, New Horizons, Sepulveda Boulevard, requested that a red zone be extended at Access 7 to enhance visibility and that two 25 mph speed limit signs be installed where 229th Place dead ends at Nadine Circle.

7G. Don Clouch, 238th Street, discussed visibility problems due to parked cars on the west side of Western Avenue near 235th Street. He also suggested that the City use a program such as Google Globe to observe traffic flow and installation of speed humps on a trial basis to control traffic speeds on 238th Street down to Western Avenue and the intersection of Walnut and 238th Street. He further suggested that the City require RV owners to register their vehicles and provide proof of RV storage and noted the presence of high weeds in the median on Madrona between Sepulveda Boulevard and Plaza del Amo.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:50 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to October 2, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

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| Approved as Submitted October 2, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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